

Application No. 10/720,576

**Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:**

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1.-18. Cancelled

19. (New) A system for detecting the effectiveness of a sterilization treatment, comprising a biological indicator, a solid support, a liquid medium, and a multiangle light scattering instrument.

20. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the biological indicator is a spore selected from the group consisting of a *B. subtilis* spore, and a *B. stearothermophilus* spore.

21. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the biological indicator is a *B. subtilis* spore.

22. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the solid support is selected from the group consisting of an adsorbent filter, a membrane, a matrix, glass, plastic, and metal.

23. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the support is glass in the form of a glass slide or a glass vial.

24. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the multiangle light scattering instrument is selected from the group consisting of a DAWN Model B MALS photometer, and a DAWN Model F MALS photometer.

25. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the sterilization treatment is selected from the group consisting of a chemical sterilization treatment, and a physical sterilization treatment.

26. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the chemical sterilization treatment is selected from the group consisting of an ethylene oxide sterilization treatment, a hydrogen peroxide sterilization treatment, a tetrasilver tetraoxide sterilization treatment, and an ozone sterilization treatment.

27. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the physical sterilization treatment is selected from the group consisting of a radiation sterilization treatment, a gas plasma sterilization treatment, a steam sterilization treatment, and a dry heat sterilization treatment.

28. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the liquid medium is selected from the group consisting of water, a brain heart infusion broth medium, a nutrient broth, and a trypticase soy broth.

Application No. 10/720,576

29. (New) A kit for assessing the viability of a spore after a sterilization treatment, the kit comprising about  $2 \times 10^8$  spores absorbed onto a solid support, a multiangle light scattering photometer, and a liquid medium, and instructional material for determining the viability of the spore by evaluating a change in spore morphology.

30. (New) The kit of claim 29, further comprising an instructional material for the use of the kit.

31. (New) The kit of claim 29, wherein the liquid medium is water.